

Atty. Docket No. YOR920010072US1  
(590.044)

**REMARKS**

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks. Applicants intend no change in scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment and have introduced no new matter to the specification.

Claims 1-25 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1, 13, and 25 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 1-5 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Nouza. Claims 6, 18, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nouza. Claims 7-12 and 19-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Nouza in view of Gao et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections is hereby respectfully requested.

Nouza as best understood appears to be directed to reducing the size of the feature vectors typically used in speech processing. (Abstract) In Nouza, "a typical feature set consists of parameters representing the speech spectrum and energy together with the 1st and 2nd time derivatives of these parameters". (Col. 1, lines 26-29)

As presently amended, Claims 1 and 25 recite obtaining speech input data; building a model for each feature of an original set of linguistic features; ranking the linguistic features; and building a model for each of a preselected number N of the ranked linguistic features. Similar language appears in Claim 13. The language "linguistic" has

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been added in the present Amendment and it is respectfully submitted that the applied art clearly falls short of the present invention in the "linguistic features" are simply not contemplated by the applied art. It should be noted the addition of this language is not in acquiescence of the Office's position on the allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

While Applicant has limited her comments hereinabove to Nouza, Applicant wishes to comment briefly Gao et al. at this point. Applicant respectfully submits that given the publication of Gao et al. subsequent to the filing of the instant application, Gao et al. is not prior art against the instant application.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicant acknowledges that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant as to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicant will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

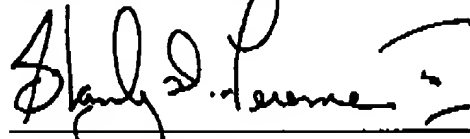
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 13, and 25 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from what is believed to be allowable independent Claims 1, 13, and 25, is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-12 and 14-24 are also presently allowable.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-25, is in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

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Applicant's undersigned attorney would welcome further discussion with the  
Office in the event there are any further issues in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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